

## REView March 2017

### National News

#### The Religious Education Council

The Religious Education Council's (REC) work progressed in leaps and bounds in 2016:

- They established an independent Commission on Religious Education.
- There were more schools applying for the RE Quality Mark award than ever before.
- The Young Ambassadors for RE engaged directly with some of the REC's member organisations as they worked on their assignment on their chosen worldview, and some teams participated in the Youth Debate at Westminster on the role of RE.
- They increased their engagement with parliamentarians and political decision makers through attendance at the Labour and Conservative party conferences, and through one-to-one meetings with a number of MPs.

#### 2017:

- Will see the publication of an interim report on the progress of the Commission on RE,
- There will be a 'State of the Nation' report from the RE, PR group, which will focus on challenging political decision makers and influencers on how schools in England are fulfilling their statutory duty to teach religious education.
- There is an RE Quality Mark Conference taking place in Canterbury in February
- Plans for another Young Ambassadors' event in the summer term. All of this work is vital as we continue to work to ensure that every young person experiences a personally inspiring & academically rigorous education in religious and non-religious worldviews.

### The Commission on Religious Education (CoRE)

The Commission launched a **Call for Evidence**. This call will form part of CoRE's efforts to gather the evidence on which the Commissioners will base their recommendations. CoRE is keen to hear from as wide a range of people and organisations as possible. All responses to this call will be made available in full to all Commissioners. When directed by CoRE, the secretariat of CoRE, provided by the REC, will provide an analysis of the responses. Responses to this call will not be published without your permission.

In addition to the call for evidence, Commissioners are currently considering additional ways for people to submit views and evidence to CoRE, providing opportunities to contribute throughout the tenure of CoRE. The later such evidence is submitted, the less opportunity Commissioners will have to consider it before the drafting of the interim report. There is no restriction on the type of evidence that can be submitted, though CoRE believes that a degree of structure in the evidence is helpful. The survey can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CoRECallforEvidence>

### AREIAC and NASACRE Annual Conference

This year's joint AREIAC and NASACRE will be looking at the theme 'Religions are not Monoliths', exploring the contemporary liberal wings of Christianity and Islam. This conference aims to explore the ideas of Muslims and Christians that take what might be called a 'liberal' view.

**Date:** Monday 6 March 2017, 10.00 – 15.45

**Venue:** Ibis Hotel (New Street), Arcadian Centre 21, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham, B5 4ST

**Cost:** AREIAC & NASACRE members: £75 Non-members: £90  
Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

### Teach RE courses

There are now four courses available! These have been tailored for those entering Secondary ITT, those already teaching RE in both primary and secondary schools, those entering primary ITT/primary NQTs and those who want to brush up on subject knowledge to teach the new GCSE and A level courses. There is something for everyone.

For more information see [www.teachre.co.uk](http://www.teachre.co.uk)

### New Publication: Religion and Nationhood

More than thirty authoritative practitioners and scholars, including many representatives from REC member organisations, have contributed to this new publication *Religion and Nationhood*, edited by Professor Brian Gates, former REC Chair. [Click here](#) to download a summary of the book's contents.

This book illuminates the context for religion in public education nationally and globally. The authors' principal focus is on Religious Education in England, with its distinctive matrix of Christianity, plurality of beliefs and secularity. The complementary attention to RE provision in eight other countries and within Europe is revealing of each and a source for comparative comment on the 'English approach'. Religion is understood universally as referring to the deepest meanings which we have generated to live with, both individually and collectively. The peculiarity of England with a constitutional monarchy and established church is identified as an enabling feature for understanding, inclusivity and openness rather than separation and mutual ignorance, but that RE is threatened by government inattention.

This book can be purchased from [the University of Cumbria's Online Store](#) for £70, including postage and packaging

### Local News

#### The Agreed Syllabus

The revised Agreed Syllabus for East Sussex 'Continuing the Journey' will be launched at this year's Annual Conference. Our thanks to all of those who have contributed to ensure that this syllabus is up to date with current thinking about the RE curriculum and assessment.

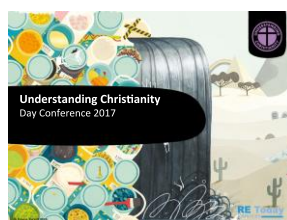
### 29<sup>th</sup> March - East Sussex Annual Conference at Dean's Place Hotel Alfriston

Places are still available for what is hoped will be an interesting and informative conference.

Key Note Speaker: Dr Ann Holt OBE – Diocesan Director of Education Chichester Diocese

The East Sussex Conference will focus on two main areas:

- Launching the revised Agreed Syllabus : 'Continuing the Journey'
- Giving schools the opportunity to complete a day's training on the new 'Understanding Christianity' materials.



Produced by the Church of England in conjunction with RE Today, 'Understanding Christianity' is a substantial resource to support the teaching of Christianity in schools and help raise standards.

The aim is to see pupils leave school with a coherent understanding of Christian belief and practice. With detailed units of work and support materials, pupils from 4-14 explore the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.

The programme also helps non-specialist teachers develop their own knowledge and understanding of Christianity theology to be able to teach with confidence.

As the training for 'Understanding Christianity' is two days, this is a wonderful opportunity for subject leaders and or staff teaching RE to complete day one and explore the vast quantity of resources available.

For those church schools who have already completed day one we are also offering a workshop on 'Understanding Judaism' and Jewish concepts.

It is however an opportunity for schools to send along other staff who have not yet been trained.

### **Other Training**

#### **RE-Think- RE – Assessment**

#### **The new East Sussex disc to support Assessment without Levels**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** Deans Place Hotel Alfriston 3.00 – 6.00

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> February** Horntye Park Sports Complex Hastings 3.00 – 6.00

#### **Secondary Network meeting –**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Venue to be arranged